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book has been handsomely printed by Mr. Baldwin for private distribution, in an edition limited to 131 copies. It is to be regretted that its accessibility is thus restricted; but those responsible for its production merit cordial thanks for the preservation and the circulation even though limited of the documents.

ULRICH B. PHILLIPS.

Lincoln and Herndon. By JOSEPH FORT NEWTON. (Cedar Rapids, Iowa: Torch Press. 1910. Pp. 367.)

WITH the initial sentiment expressed in the preface of this book everyone will agree: "whoso sends forth another Lincoln book must show cause why it should be read". Not everyone, however, will share the author's conviction that the present volume justifies its own existence by virtue of the new material which it contains, for while it throws considerable light upon the life and habits of the junior member of the law firm of Lincoln and Herndon, it fails to reveal any other Lincoln than the one whom Herndon delineated in his biography. It is somewhat regrettable that the author has allowed himself to be swerved from his original purpose, which was to portray Herndon as the friend, partner, and biographer of Lincoln, and has borrowed so copiously from other writers to depict Lincoln.

Between the years 1854 and 1859, Herndon maintained a rather one-sided correspondence with Theodore Parker, whose writings he had read with the greatest avidity and whose friendship he coveted earnestly. These letters written by Herndon, fifty-two in number, are printed in this volume for the first time, together with about a dozen letters from Parker. As a revelation of Herndon, they have considerable value, but they yield little or no new information about Lincoln. Herndon mentions his partner only a score of times; and his correspondent alludes to Lincoln but thrice. Many suggestive references to local politics occur in Herndon's letters. One of his fixed ideas, which may have some basis in fact, was his conviction that Greeley was responsible for Lincoln's defeat in the senatorial campaign of 1858. Greeley, Seward, Weed, and Douglas, Herndon insists, met in Chicago in October of 1857 and entered upon an agreement whereby the New Yorkers were to support Douglas for the Senate and Douglas was to throw his influence in favor of Seward as candidate for the presidency in 1860. The replies of Parker to Herndon's outpourings were brief but kindly. There is no evidence that Parker shared Herndon's confidence in his law partner or divined Lincoln's real greatness. Both agreed, however, in cordial detestation of Douglas.

Although Herndon labored indefatigably for Lincoln's political preferment, he does not seem to have shaped appreciably the thinking of the older man on political issues. Indeed, in spite of their intimacy of twenty years in the law office, they lived separate lives. They owned a copy of Helper's *Impending Crisis*—the sensation of the year. Her-

don marked many passages which counselled violent retribution upon the slave-owners; Lincoln indicated his conservatism by other markings or by erasures. Herndon was by temperament emotional and precipitate; Lincoln deliberately thought out his convictions. Herndon was an omnivorous reader; Lincoln read little but found endless diversion, and no doubt some instruction, in Herndon's chatter about all manner of things in heaven and on earth, for this disciple of Parker delved in both transcendental philosophy and science.

Not the least valuable part of this volume is the chapter on the Later Herndon—the biographer Herndon. Even while Lincoln was living, Herndon seems to have formed a purpose to write a life of his former partner. Soon after Lincoln's death, he gave a series of lectures on the martyred President, some of which found their way into print. He soon became a recognized authority on Lincoln. Biographers from far and near sought him out. Holland, Barrett, and Arnold, we are led to infer, received far more aid from him than their readers were allowed to suspect, while Lamon's life of Lincoln was based upon material which Herndon, fallen upon evil times, sold for two thousand dollars. Letters which Herndon wrote to Mr. Horace White in 1890 even aver that Chauncey F. Black, son of J. S. Black, wrote Lamon's book—"quite every word of it".

ALLEN JOHNSON.

Stephen A. Douglas. By HENRY PARKER WILLIS, Ph.D. [American Crisis Biographies.] (Philadelphia: George W. Jacobs and Company. 1910. Pp. 371.)

It is not an easy task to write a popular biography of so controversial a character as Stephen A. Douglas, for the average reader demands a straightforward narrative with bold high-lights, when faithful portraiture requires many half-tones. This latest biography of Douglas conforms to the general purpose of the *Crisis* series in that it gives a direct, simple account of his career on the national stage. The portrait is drawn with rather severe brush-strokes, for Professor Willis has little sympathy with either the character or the principles of Douglas and accepts without much questioning the traditional view of the great rival of Lincoln. The narrative is based frankly on secondary authorities.

The chief criticism of the reviewer concerns the attitude of the author toward his authorities. There is a regrettable tendency to disregard the relative historical values of the earlier biographies and to disparage the importance of original matter which has not fallen within his purview. Sheahan's *Life of Douglas*, for example, published in 1860 for the purposes of a political campaign, is characterized as "the most valuable biography" and "of especial use because it contains long extracts from Douglas's more important speeches as well as other documents supplied by Mr. Douglas himself". And this uncritical appraisal has led to a rather unfortunate reliance upon Sheahan for statements of